

<p><b>PARENTAL INCOME DOES NOT DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR THE BIRTH TO 3 PROGRAM</b></p>
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### **WHAT IS THE PARENTAL COST SHARE SYSTEM?**

The Parental Cost Share System means that parents, who are determined to be able, will share in the cost of early intervention services for their child. The Parental Cost Share System is based on a partnership between the family and the public sector. These funds will offset the cost of early intervention services for your child. All funds collected will be used to offset the costs of early intervention services in your county.

Birth to 3 Program services are funded through county, state, and federal funds, insurance payment and the Parental Cost Share. If your child might be eligible for Medical Assistance through programs such as Badger Care, SSI, Katie Beckett or the Healthy Start Programs, you will be asked to apply. You will also be asked for consent to bill your private health insurance.

### **WHAT INFORMATION MUST PARENTS PROVIDE?**

You will be asked to provide information about your income and the number of family members in your home, including

the number of children in the Birth to 3 Program, and the number of children who have a disability and are under the age of 19. You will be asked to provide current and accurate information. Refusal to provide this information may result in your being responsible for the maximum cost share.

### **HOW IS THE PARENTAL COST SHARE DETERMINED?**

The county Birth to 3 Agency or its designee uses the following procedures to calculate your Parental Cost Share:

- Calculate the total income of the parents by using the most recent federal tax return or other sources
- Determine adjusted annual income by giving parents:
  - \$3,300 credit for each family member participating in the Birth to 3 Program
  - \$3,300 credit for each additional child in the family under the age of 19 with a disability
- Compare your adjusted annual income and family size to the federal poverty guidelines.

Based on this information, your Parental Cost Share will be determined by comparing income information to the Parental Cost Share tables. This

information is available to your county's Birth to 3 program. The Parental Cost Share will range from \$0-150 per month for the term of your child's current Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

### **DOES THE PARENTAL COST SHARE AFFECT EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES?**

Your service coordinator will work with your family and early intervention team to develop an IFSP. The numbers, types or frequency of services on the IFSP do not increase or decrease your cost share. Your cost share is based on parental income and expenses, not services.

Your cost share will not exceed the cost of your child's plan. To ensure this will not occur, the service coordinator may calculate the cost of the IFSP and consider potential insurance payments, which may in turn reduce your cost share.

The cost share applies to most services listed on the IFSP. Some services, such as evaluation and assessment, development of the IFSP and service coordination are **not** included in the cost of the plan. The parental cost share is applied to the cost of the entire plan, not individual services.

### **WHAT IF A FAMILY'S SITUATION CHANGES?**

The parental cost share can be changed whenever there are major changes for a family such as more or less income or the birth of a child. A family can request a change in their cost share. The Birth to 3 Program should be notified of any major financial changes.

### **HOW IS THE PARENTAL COST SHARE COLLECTED?**

Your county agency is responsible for determining how parental cost share payments will be collected. Your Service Coordinator will discuss payment options with you to determine what will work best for your family.

### **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?**

**Please contact your Birth to 3  
Program Service Coordinator at:**

Department of Health and Family Services  
Division of Supportive Living  
Birth to 3 Program  
P.O. Box 7851  
Madison, WI 53707-7851  
Telephone: (608) 266-8276  
Fax: (608) 261-6751  
Web: [www.dhfs.state.wi.us/bdds/b3.htm](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/bdds/b3.htm)



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## **PARENTAL COST SHARE SYSTEM**

Sharing in the cost of services  
for your child

DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND FAMILY  
SERVICES